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It Takes a Village: Identity Through Helping the Community

Kimberly Anne Arias
California State University, Monterey Bay

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It takes a village Identity through helping the Community

Kimberly Anne Arias

Senior Capstone

Human Communication Pre Law

Internship

Dr. Wang

Division of Humanities and Communication

Fall 2016



It takes a village

Identity through helping
the Community

Kimberly Anne Arias

Dedication

To My Loving Family & J

Thank you for always pushing me to do my best. I appreciate your support throughout my undergraduate career. You have been an amazing source of love and inspiration. I am so thankful for you.

I studied hard now I shall make you proud.

♥ Bella

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★ Full Abstract

“It takes a village: Identity through helping the Community”

Kimberly Anne Arias

My capstone project is an internship at Legal Services for Seniors in Seaside. Helping senior citizens has enabled me to grow as an individual. I have always wanted to give back to the community. By educating the elderly of their rights and providing them with free legal aid to the seniors of Monterey County has helped learning who I am and what I want to be.

★Senior Project Proposal

HCOM 475: SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT PROPOSAL INTERNSHIP OPTION

Kimberly Arias

Human Communication Pre Law Concentration

Selection of Site: Legal Services for Seniors 915 Hilby Avenue, Suite 2 Seaside, California 93955 Phone number: 831.899.0492

Internship Description: I will be interning at Legal Services for Seniors. This is a non-profit that provides free legal services to seniors in Monterey County.

Alignment with Common Theme: The alignment between my Internship and my Capstone projects theme is self identity. This project will help me find out who I am and how to give back to the community specifically the senior citizens in Monterey County and the fire victims in Big Sur.

Internship Site Supervisor: Philip M. Geiger, Development Director,
Email: Philip@lssmc.net or Office 831-899-0492 Cell 831-238-2491

Goals and Expectations: I want to learn the ins and out of the non profit I am interning for. I am also going to be helping set up a Resource center for the Soberanes Fire Victims.

- 1) I plan on helping by learning the ins and outs of this business to see exactly what services we can offer to the elderly people of Monterey County. Evaluate the resources and services offered for the Senior citizens of Monterey County.
- 2) Find out about grants, donations, and the possibility of funding a company of this sort.
- 3) Help with the Soberanes Fire Resource Center, this is an 18 month long project but I plan to help with the first phase of it.

Capstone Title: It takes a village; Identity through helping the community

Working Summary: I provide administrative duties to the staff at Legal Services for Seniors. I answer phones, relay messages and do any office work needed for the office staff. I will also be helping with the Soberanes Fire Relief Center. We are going to be looking for a federal or state funding to set up a resource center for fire victims of all ages who were affected by the Big Sur Fire.

Next Steps: To work towards completing my hours for my internship. To help Philip with the resource center for the fire victims.

Timeline: I will be working on my internship hours on thursdays and fridays for the remainder for the semester. I will also be working my journal, and essays. I should have everything completed by December 20d.

★ Analytical Essay

For the past several weeks I have interned at Legal Services for Seniors site in Seaside, California. This nonprofit law firm provides no-cost legal

representation to seniors 60 years of age and older who live in Monterey County. I selected this nonprofit because it has many of the same values I have. The value I hold closest to my heart is helping people. I absolutely love helping people. This particular nonprofit serves the elderly community of Monterey County. Their mission statement; *“Legal Services for Seniors provides legal services at no charge to Monterey County seniors 60 years of age and older with an emphasis on the socially and/or economically needy.”* They have two offices, one in Seaside where I volunteer and one in Salinas and ten legal outreach locations throughout Monterey County.

My first learning outcome for this site is to develop a deeper understanding of what legal services seniors in the local community need and what policy changes, if any, might enhance those services to meet those needs.

LSS provides no-cost direct, confidential attorney services on most areas of civil law including Social Security, private pension problems, Medicare, Medi-Cal, private health insurance problems, elder abuse, consumer fraud, probate guardianships, housing rights, neighborhood disputes, landlord-tenant issues, Advance Healthcare Directives, long term care problems, Wills, consumer debt collection problems and scams.

My second learning outcome is to learn more about what effective advocacy

for seniors looks like in a community-based non-profit law firm. There are three levels of help that interns provide for this nonprofit. Thus far I have acted as a receptionist, which is level one. I answer phones, do client intakes, help walk-in clients and support the staff by scanning client documents and other supportive activities I am asked to do.

For client intakes I record a client's personal information and the legal problem(s) they are calling about.. Then an attorney or legal advocate contacts the person in need and sets up an appointment. During the appointment they clarify and evaluate the legal problem(s), work with clients to address the legal damages and/or recommend resources that can help them. There are a lot of people in need and only a few attorneys and legal advocates so we put them in a "Cue" and prioritize the order in which we get back to clients based on the urgency of their problem(s).

The second level of help an intern can provide is assisting LSS attorneys and legal advocates. This enables me to learn more about LSS policies and procedures on how we handle various legal issues and following up with clients. One activity I will be doing as a intern is being a witness to the signing of Wills and Advance Health Care Directives. The third level of help an intern can provide is actually helping clients as legal advocate under the direction of LSS's managing

attorney. I hope to eventually be a legal advocate and obtain a paid position if I decided I will be attending Law School in the future.

Currently we have 10 outreach sites in South County (King City, Greenfield, Soledad, Gonzales), North County (Prunedale and Castroville) and on the Monterey Peninsula (Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel and Carmel Valley). We have regular legal office hours at these locations to help seniors who can not make it to our offices due to financial, physical or transportation challenges. Legal outreach sites, especially those in the rural underserved parts of the county are essential to providing legal representation to people who have nowhere else to go for legal aid. At our offices and legal outreach sites we provide a safe and private place for clients to tell us about their problems or issues they may be dealing with and provide them with no-cost legal assistance. We also offer vital legal information and education for seniors at community events including the Big Sur Health Fair, The King City Annual Golden Jubilee, Senior Day at the Monterey County Fair, Veteran's Connect Resource Fair at the Monterey County Fair, Monterey County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, Elder Justice Summit, Hospice Giving Foundation and lots of other venues throughout the year. At these events we provide information about our services, education to the elderly community as well as information on scams and insurance.

Some of the things that I expect to learn by completing this internship lead directly to my third learning outcome. I would like to use and improve my empathic listening skills, practical reasoning, and interpersonal skills in interactions with clients and staff. I would also like to find out about funding that this nonprofit uses to keep afloat. I want to learn about how they find grants and the process for applying for them.

This internship connects with my long-term professional goals because I do want to become an attorney. I am not sure what type of attorney I would like to be, but I do know I enjoy helping people a lot. This organization is set up to help people at no cost. This is an amazing nonprofit to provide so much no-cost legal help to seniors. I would like to model my career after an organization like this one.

I am planning on taking some time off after I get my bachelors to get my Real Estate License. After I get that I would like to work and save for law school. I am fearful of student loans, so I would like to go to Law School after I have some money saved to pay for it. Starting out a career in debt does not sound very appealing to me. I am hoping after a year or two off I can attend a local law school and resume my education. Taking a break is also nerve wracking to me but I feel it is better to attend school when you can afford it, then it is to take out a bunch of

student loans with no guarantee of passing the bar or having a job directly after the graduating.

My only concern thus far about this internship is I feel this organization needs more help! It seems like the people who work here are all extremely busy all of the time. Having them serve 2,200 people per year with only 9 staff members and 5 interns it seems like they could use more help. Since 1985 when they opened they have served over 87,000 senior citizens with legal representation.

Another part of my internship is I will be assisting with a new project. It is a fire relief center for the Soberanes Fire in Big Sur. This project if funded will be helping fire victims of all ages. We will be applying for a Grant totaling \$46,000. This will provide fire victims with no-cost legal assistance. The average cost of an attorney in Monterey County is \$325 per hour. This project will not only offer no-cost legal services to the fire victims but will also have a outreach site in Big Sur for people to find out more about our services 2 days a week. This is an 18 month long project that they are starting, so I will be assisting with the first phase of it. I am hoping to learn many skills from this internship and use them in my future careers and everyday life.

The Pre-Law concentration has had a great deal of emphasis on ethics. I believe this will not only help me in life but as well as my career. This University

has prepared me for my future and allowed me to grow as an individual. I have chosen to do the internship site for my project because I want to learn more about what it is like for a Lawyer. I want to explore the career and make sure it is really for me. Law school is very expensive and I am still on the fence about attending. I might take a year off and decide then. I met the published criteria standards for assessment by finishing all 140 hours of volunteer service for Legal Services for Seniors! 100 for my legal studies intern class and 40 for capstone.

What is a MLO? Well CSUMB has the Human Communications department set up for us students to achieve Major Learning Outcomes. These outcomes are preparing us for the real world and for jobs we might have in the future. MLO 1 is about our critical communication skills. I took cooperative argumentation which taught me to communicate critically and empathetically both orally and in written context. Thus giving me logical thinking strategies and will help me a lot in my future careers. MLO 2 is about the media. I took Media Ethics for this Outcome. It taught me so much about the biases new sources hold. It taught me how to dissect the information I learn on the news and other media outlets and how to see the truth of the matter. MLO 3 is about relational communication skills. I took Relational Ethics for this one. It taught me the ability to interact ethically and effectively in interpersonal and group communication and decision-making

processes. MLO 4 teaches us about philosophical analysis of the world. Ways of Knowing is the Philosophy class I am currently taking now. It has helped me to understand why and how beliefs exist, and different value systems. Learning about different religions and theories has really helped me set a foundation of beliefs for myself and my personal & professional life. MLO 5 is a critical cultural analysis, I will be taking this for my last semester at CSUMB. I will be taking Leadership and Community and I am really looking forward to it. MLO 6 is a comparative literary analysis. Taking Asian American Literature I was taught to appreciate and analyze literature in a cultural and historical context. It gave me the ability to compare and contrast literatures of different cultural customs & traditions. MLO 7 is a historical analysis class. I will be taking Multicultural History for my last semester here. The last MLO is MLO 8, it is a creative writing and social action class. I am currently enrolled in this class. It has taught me the ability to acquire basic competency in creative writing. I am working the creative process throughout my portfolio project, taking it to completion, and I am almost finished!

Each Outcome has us learn something a little different, but together they make us well rounded individuals. We are taught a lot about ethics and morals which allows us to become the type of person we want to be. It allows us to learn

and then self identify as who we want to be as individuals. It helps us focus on what we want to achieve in our education, career and most importantly our lives.

The Pre-Law concentration has also helped me grow as an individual. I have learned about what it takes to be an attorney. If Law School wasn't so expensive I would do it without a doubt, but when you figure in my age and the amount of debt I would have to accumulate in order to get to my dream it is a big frightening. I think I will pursue Real Estate. It also is a career that takes a long time to get good at, however it is much cheaper to start. It is funny how the process of things can show us what we want as well more importantly what we do now want. As a Pre-Law student I have taken 3 concentration classes. The first class I took was a RTI class. This is short for Research Theory Intensive. I took A critical look on Law and Society. It taught us about the difference between the spirit of the law and the black letter of the law. The second class I took was a service learning class. I took Topics in Social Movements. For this class I did community service at Women Alive/Dorthys Place. This gave me the experience of helping the less fortunate at a Women's Shelter in the evenings. In the class we learned about oppression and different movements the people have stood for in the past. The third class I took is the Legal Studies Intern Class I am currently in. All of these have helped me grow as an individual.

While doing my capstone project this year I also work full time. I am taking 16 units this semester. I value the level of energy I have! For work I have my own small business. I work for a few different families. I help the families with a variety of tasks. I have been working for these families for a number of years, 4 to be exact! . I do everything from house cleaning to laundry and making appointments, even grocery shopping. I really enjoy helping these families. They are almost like a second, third and fourth family to me! I do this for work because I enjoy it it makes me really happy to know I am helping and making a difference in these people's lives.

Being a white female from the Central Coast of California, I did not understand the privilege I had until I took some of these classes. I feel very fortunate to be so lucky and blessed in my life. I feel we have a duty to help others when we are well off. Someday I hope to be a philanthropist, and donate my money to wonderful causes.

★ Reflective Journal

Internship Journal

9/11/2016

It's my first day on the job. It only took about forty-five minutes to get here from my house. I met with Philip Holder the development director. He showed me around the office and introduced me to the other staff.

I met Kellie Morgantini who is the Executive Director of the nonprofit as well as an attorney. Nancy trained me on the printer/fax & scanner.

I also met Tererinnah who is a legal advocate who is in law school at Monterey School of Law. She trained me on the phone and how to do "intake".

When we help seniors we get their name, phone number, date of birth & address. We then ask how they heard about us. This helps us know what marketing is effective. We ask about the reason they called. They then get put into the "cwe" an attorney or legal advocate then calls them back as soon as possible.

The phones were ringing off the hook. It seems like lots of seniors are in need of their help & services.

I also met Melody, she is another CSUMB student intern. Overall it was a good day.

9/8/2016

Today I met Derek who is a legal advocate and student at Monterey School of Law. We sat down and discussed some of the services they offer here at Legal Services for Seniors.

We provide free legal aid to seniors over the age of 60 who live in Monterey County. This includes Salinas, King City, Monterey, Prunedale, Seleda, Greenfield, Carmel Valley, Marina, Seaside, Gonzales/Pasadena. We have two offices located in Salinas and the other in Seaside. We have 10 outreach sites at various days and times. These include senior centers like the Carmel Foundation + lots of public libraries. Throughout the year we also have lots of events that we attend to inform the public of what we do and who we are.

Some of the things we help people with are:

Wills, advance health care directives, guardianship, housing rights, neighborhood disputes and landlord/tenant issues, consumer fraud/scams, debt collection problems, elder abuse issues, medical - medicare + insurance issues, social security, 551 and private pensions, identity theft, restraining orders, and many other legal problems.

9/15/2020

Today I met the office administrator Nancy. I also met Sara. She is a former student at Santa Clara University. She just finished law school. She is a legal advocate here as she waits for her results from the Bar. How exciting + Nerve racking at the same time! I think I'd be really nervous if I were her.

Today I am going to start working on my capstone proposal. The theme to our capstone is self identity.

I self identify myself as a giver. I think giving back to the community is really important. I chose to help this nonprofit because they are also givers and give back to the community by offering free legal services to seniors 60 years or older.

Often times we get so wrapped up in our daily lives just live it day by day. We don't always plan for the future. Working here makes me think about the future and want to plan for it!

9/22/2016

Today was very interesting. I had my first encounter with a mean client.

She came in stating she had an appointment with Derek, one of our legal advocates.

She said the appointment was at 2:15.

I apologized to her + told her Derek was at an outreach site until 3:15. She rudely responded, "so he doesn't keep his appointments?"

I then said I will call him + see what's

going on. I then called Derek + he didn't answer. " " then I explained to her

that I am a student intern + have only been here a little while. She yelled at me

+ said "that's a lie, you were here when I

made the appointment a week ago. Derek

then called back + said she made a mistake he is at outreach every week the appointment

was at 3:15. I told her what he said +

she starts going off on me! She asked if there was training for my position. Then she went

on to tell me that I wasn't going to make it in this type of setting. She got in my

face and told me she sensed that I had entitlement issues. I then asked her

to get out of my face + told her I'd have a supervisor come talk to her. Then she

paul back + ~~then~~ complaining about me

our offices + Derek not being here. We tried to be polite but I think she was just mad

she mixed up the time. Had help me to not become an angry old woman like her. I hope I never become like her.

9/29/16

Today was my supervisors 4 year anniversary of being with legal services for seniors. Kellie the owner + executive director took us all out to lunch at a nice thai restaurant down the street. We got out of the office, it was nice to get to know the team a little more out of the office setting. We talked about how they all got hired. It was really nice of her to do that.

We also got the final paperwork turned in for the Fire relief project grant. We applied for this through the Community Foundation. We asked for 2 grants. One was for 18 months 46,000

+ the other was for 12 months for 36,000. If we receive the grants we will be setting up in Big Sur to help the victims of the fire.

We will offer free legal help to any + all victims. This will include helping w/ insurance claims, contractors or rebuilding the homes and obtaining any documents that were destroyed in the fires. We will set up an outreach site in Big Sur. I really hope we get the grant b/c I'll be helping with this project. We will know in a month if we get it or not.

10/6/2016

As legal advocates or attorneys the staff is only allowed to talk to the clients. If a family member or friend comes in we can only talk to our client. We are not allowed to tell anyone about the services we offer the client due to confidentiality & attorney/client privileges. Today we had an elderly woman come into meet Sarah a legal advocate to write up an advanced health care directive. An advance health care directive is essentially a power of attorney. This is set up so if someone gets hurt and cannot speak for themselves "the agent" is able to surpass HIPAA and make decisions for medical purposes. I.e. organ donations, pulling the plug or not living in nursing homes or whatever decisions the person makes about their health care while they are healthy enough to get it on paper. A lady came in with her son to get this filled out. When Sarah was going over it w/ the client, the client stated she didn't want this. So we gave her a draft and tried to send her on her way. When she got out to the waiting room she sort of played dumb w/ her son saying she didn't know what was going on. Her son then started yelling at us saying this was a waste of time & they needed to hire a private attorney now. I felt so bad for her. She was so scared to tell her son she didn't want him to be in charge of her health care decisions. Super sad situation.

11/14/2016

Today I got copies of all the fire relief project.
I got copies of the grant proposal. for some
reason I can't attach a pdf file to my copy store
rough draft for some reason. I hope I can figure
that out b/c I was planning on scanning these
journals and attaching them to my project file.
I'll figure it out.

1/4/21/16

Today I was suppose to go to my first outreach. It was at the Carmel Foundation. However there was no parking so I got called & told to go back to the office. I'm glad I went back because they needed my help. The phones were ringing off the hook. I guess on Fridays everybody realizes the stuff they should have gotten done earlier in the week, I talk & try to rush getting it done before the weekend. I am shocked ~~how~~ how the people who are receiving free legalst help can be so excited. It's crazy to me! I feel like sometimes these people forget our services are free. The case workload that the advocates take on is alot! If a restraining order of eviction happens their priority is to drop everything they are doing to help w/ these issues. They are considered to have priority over everything else.

11/3/2016

Today at my internship I got offered a new project to do. The previous project was postponed due to politics. We haven't heard back from the grant, so we can't move forward. We're at a standstill playing the waiting game.

So now we'll be working with the ag commissioner's office. We will be getting in touch with the companies in the ag industry. We are trying to get in touch with the other departments to find out what services are offered to employees who are about to retire. We want to tell them about the services we offer to help them plan for their futures.

We have already applied for the grant.

11/10

Today I went to case review. It was interesting to hear about all the cases the advocates + attorneys were working on. I learned a lot about laws. It was a lot of information to process. I think its cool to hear about all the things people are dealing with.

I met the staff from the seniors office along with the other SUMB interns. It really takes a village to help with all these problems. Seniors have to deal with a ton of issues they are lucky to have legal services for seniors.

I also worked on my new Agricultural outreach program. I got a list of Ag companies + cold called them to promote our services. I tried to get ahold of the HR managers but didn't have a ton of luck. I got a few emails. I'm sort of bummed b/c I wanted my internship to be more law oriented, but I'll take what I can get.

When I was leaving today everyone thanked me + told me how helpful I am to do the client intakes. It made me feel really good. I have to go every Thurs + Fri until Dec. 2nd then I'll have all my hours completed.

I need content for my essays! I'm also looking forward to my conference.

11/17/2016

Today I plan on putting together my capstone. I need to work on my essays. The give + get lunch was a huge success. It was a fund raiser they threw yesterday. I am going to help with some data entry for that. Send out thank you letters. Tomorrow I will be attending a luncheon. It's the 20th annual elder law conference. It's going to be held at Monterey Plaza Hotel. I am also going to give Philip my supervisor my evaluation!! I need to scan the journals in + add them to my project!! I am also answering phones + doing client intake.

★Additional Documents for fire relief & aq project and about LSS

Updated 8/9/2016



Soberanes Fire Fund GRANT GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) established the Soberanes Fire Fund in response to the Soberanes fire that began on July 22, 2016. Grants from this special purpose fund will support nonprofit organizations assisting with relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts for individuals and organizations affected by the fire.

Please contact Lynn Bentaleb, lynnb@cfmco.org, 831.375.9712 x111 if you have any questions regarding the Soberanes Fire Fund.

GRANT CRITERIA

Grants are considered for the following types of activities:

Relief

Funds may be provided to organizations providing immediate direct relief to individuals impacted from the fire.

Some possible activities might include:

- Support for emergency shelters
- Monetary compensation to those evacuated
- Efforts to support firefighters
- Food and water for evacuees, volunteers and firefighters

Recovery

Recovery funds can be used for medium term needs of organizations to assist the community as it moves between crisis towards rebuilding.

Examples might include

- Water system restoration
- Waste removal
- Reimbursement of equipment and supplies
- Rehabilitating roads

Rebuilding

Since the fire is still active, we expect the impact to grow and the recovery period to be long, and expect that funding to go towards more long-term relief efforts. The Additional opportunities to support the Soberanes Fire Fund include being listed in Monterey County Gives!, the annual community giving campaign conducted by the CFMC and Monterey County Weekly.

Some possible activities might include:

- Assistance to individuals who lost property (items not covered by insurance)
- Environmental projects to repopulate the forest
- Preparedness projects to help the community in case of future emergencies

*Guidelines are subject to change in order to be flexible and responsive to needs as they arise.

SELECTING GRANTS

We expect the needs generated by this fire will exceed the available funds. To assist with the selection of grants, a volunteer grant committee comprised of local residents from the fire-impacted area will review the applications on a monthly basis as needed and make recommendations to the CFMC President/CEO.

GRANT AWARDS

We expect grants to range in size from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Organizations may apply for more than one grant during the calendar year, as this fund is intended to be responsive to the ongoing needs of the community.

Eligibility:

- Grants are open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and other public agencies serving the community affected by the Soberanes Fire.
- Businesses and individuals are not eligible at this time. If the fire spreads outside of Big Sur and individuals suffer additional losses, the process may be revised to include individuals.

Exclusions:

- Activities that are non-secular or promote a religious doctrine
- Academic or medical research
- Funding to schools and public agencies that would supplant tax-supported, mandated services
- Annual fundraising campaigns or events
- Creation of, or addition to, endowment funds
- Payment of debt or legal settlements
- Political or partisan purposes

CFMC does not support organizations that discriminate in their employment practices, volunteer opportunities, or delivery of programs and services on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other characteristics protected by law.

SUBMITTING A GRANT PROPOSAL

Soberanes Fire Fund grant applications can be submitted at any time while funds are still available. Grantmaking decisions will typically be made within six weeks of receipt of the proposal.

EVALUATION

Organizations that are awarded a Soberanes Fire Fund grant are encouraged to stay in close contact with the CFMC on the progress of their efforts. A final grant report will be required to share the impact of the grant.

For questions regarding Soberanes Fire Fund grants, contact Lynn Bentaleb, Program Officer, lynnb@cfmco.org or 831.375.9712 x 111.

Please visit our website at www.cfmco.org/apply for the grant application, instructions and all materials needed to submit a proposal.

requests


[Applicant Dashboard](#)


[Apply](#)


tools

[Fax to File](#)

Application

 Public Profile

 Application Packet

 Question List

Contact: Mr. Philip Geiger
915 Hilby Avenue
Suite 2
Seaside, CA 93955 USA

831.899.0492
philip@isamc.net

 If your organization information does not appear correct, please contact the funder. Thank you.

Organization: Legal Services for Seniors
915 Hilby Avenue
Suite 2
Seaside, CA 93955

831.899.0492

<http://www.legalservicesforseniors.org/>

> Request Documents 0

 Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

▼ Grant Request

About the Soberanes Fire Fund: The Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) established the Soberanes Fire Fund in response to the Soberanes fire that began on July 22, 2016. Grants from this special purpose fund will support nonprofit organizations assisting with relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts for individuals and organizations affected by the fire.

Criteria for Grant Requests: The CFMC will consider grant requests for individuals for emergency assistance, health and human services, short term housing/rental, reimbursement of equipment and supplies, and other immediate relief and longer-term recovery support for affected residents.

Grants are expected to range between \$5,000 and \$50,000. Grant applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis. Organizations are eligible to apply for additional funding as needs arise.

Please contact Lynn Bentaieb at (831) 375-9712 ext. 111 or lynnb@cfmc.org if you have any questions.

Program Name*

Provide a brief one-line phrase to describe this request. This phrase serves as the title of your request in our records.

Legal Services for Soberanes Fire Victims

Requested Amount*

\$ 46,004.00

Briefly describe your request. Include how grant funds would be used.*

Please include number of people served, demographics and geography with a description and duration of

services.

Legal Services for Seniors (LSS) is in a unique position to help the Soberanes Fire victims. The community's rebuilding process will have many legal challenges. Without legal assistance, these challenges will result in fire victims' deteriorating health, homelessness, loss of assets and financial instability. Most fire victims will be focusing their limited financial resources on rebuilding their homes and their lives. These individuals should not be forced to invest those limited resources into hiring private attorneys to fight for their legal rights. LSS's no-cost legal representation in the areas of law most needed to address this disaster's aftermath helps the Big Sur community to focus instead on rebuilding their lives.

The Big Sur community's population is approximately 1,370 people; 318 are 60 years of age and older. These seniors already qualify for our no-cost services. This leaves another 1,000+ people with no access to legal help if they cannot afford a private attorney.

With a grant from The Soberanes Fire Fund, LSS can provide no-cost legal assistance and representation to all victims of the Soberanes fire, regardless of age.

We propose an initial 18-month project duration. Given the breadth of the Soberanes fire victims legal problems, we believe we will successfully serve at least 150 clients with direct legal representation. We also will reach at least as many individuals in periodic community-based general legal educational presentations.

✓ 516 characters left of 2,000

What additional support have you received to help your efforts with the Soberanes Fire?

Please include the total to-date and include subtotals from individual donors, foundations, public agencies, businesses and insurance.

Example:

Individual Donors: \$50,000

Monterey Peninsula Foundation: \$25,000

Insurance: \$10,000

Total: \$85,000

None.

This project is a direct response of LSS' board and staff's desire to help the people and the community of Big Sur to overcome the life-changing impacts of this natural disaster.

✓ 1,813 characters left of 2,000

Itemized Budget

If available, upload a spreadsheet or other document with the detailed budget information. Alternatively, a list of how the funds would be used can be provided below.

LSS will provide no-cost legal representation over an 18-month period for all Soberness Fire victims. To provide the necessary attorney/legal advocate staff time and their expenses, our budget for this program is \$46,004.

These funds will be used to:

(1) Provide no-cost legal representation to all Soberness fire victims with legal issues including: insurance problems (health, home, car, etc.), housing issues (landlord-tenant, mortgages, contractor, etc.), public assistance benefits difficulties (Social Security, Medicare, Medi-Cal, etc.), replacing government documents (drivers licenses, vehicle titles, registrations, etc.), consumer fraud (rebuilding materials, personal items, contractors, etc.). These services will be provided with quality and promptness and at no cost to our clients. In comparison, the average per hour charge for a private attorney in Monterey County is \$325 per hour.

(2) Open a new legal outreach site in Big Sur (currently we have approval to locate outreach at the Big Sur Health Center). Depending on the need and type of cases our clients are encountering, we anticipate holding bi-weekly outreach hours in Big Sur. It is our goal to establish a lasting presence in Big Sur. We will evaluate quarterly the number of clients we've seen and can adjust our legal outreach hours to address a higher level of service.

Follow up work, especially that needed to address insurance claim issues and governmental processes like replacing licenses, passports, Wills and other legal documents, will be done in our LSS offices.

Soberness fire victims can also meet, any time, with LSS attorneys and legal advocates at our offices in Seaside and Salinas and 10 outreach sites on the Monterey Peninsula, North County and South County.

(3) Participate in community outreach and educational events, including the Big Sur Health Center Annual Health Fair.

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Upload a file (5 MB allowed)

LSS Soberness Fire Victims Project Budget.xlsx (13.2KB)

☒ Delete File

Organization Agreement

We, the undersigned, certify that the practices of this organization conform to the non-discrimination policy as follows. This organization does not discriminate in its employment practices, volunteer opportunities or delivery of programs on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other characteristics protected by law.

We, the undersigned, hereby state that the information presented in this application is complete and factual. By typing our names below and submitting this application, we confirm our authority and have notified and secured approval from all parties. We hereby agree that funds, if granted will be used only for the purpose described above unless written approval from the Community Foundation for Monterey County is received.

Name of Executive Director or Other Authorized Representative*

Typically executive director or member of the board

Kelle D. Morgantini

Title*

Executive Director

Use this space for any optional comments or explanations regarding this grant application.

Over the past 31 years LSS has successfully helped more than 87,000 Monterey County citizens with their legal problems. LSS has the experience and expertise to resolve the numerous legal issues facing Big Sur residents trying to rebuild their lives after the fire.

Our legal representation will include court appearances as needed, working with insurance carriers to provide proper insurance coverage, protecting citizens from consumer fraud and other challenges that can erode the victims' assets, assisting with review of contracts and obtaining replacement documentation.

The market value of our legal representation (what it would cost an individual privately) if these services were provided by private attorneys (approximately 1000 attorney hours at an average of \$325 per hour for a private attorney in Monterey County) equals \$325,000.

The no-cost legal representation LSS provides is not offered by any other local organization or agency. With these grant funds, LSS can make a remarkable, significant difference in the lives of Soberanes Fire victims.

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Save Application

Submit Application

Grant Management Software
provided by  FOUNDANT
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Questions from Lynn Bentaleb, CFMC – Soberanes Fire Fund Grant Application

1. You made it sound like you know what the lawyer would be to do this outreach. Can you give me more information on their personal background and experience with these types of cases (insurance, contractors, government process, etc.)?

This project has the backing of our entire law firm with 31-years experience with insurance, contractors, government processes, etc. and not just one attorney.

2. When we spoke on the phone, you mentioned a request of \$36,000 or so - how come the request is \$10,000 higher?

In our experience, it can take many months to successfully tackle the legal issues most likely to affect Soberanes fire victims, insurance, contractors, government process, etc.

The 18-month time frame of our grant proposal is our estimate of the amount of time it would take to best serve the needs of this community.

3. Would LSS be open to an idea of a pilot grant? Perhaps receiving a smaller amount of funding for a shorter period of time to test the need for services?

Yes, we are open to a smaller pilot grant.

We would need a time frame that would allow us to develop the capacity to operate this program (hire more legal staff).

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LIMITED WARRANTY

The party requesting the records which are being disclosed pursuant to this Public Records Act request understands and agrees that the County, and the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner, its officers, employees and/or agents, are not responsible, nor liable for any damages or claims whatsoever which may result to the requesting party, its agent or assigns due to errors, omissions or misinformation on the part of the reporting parties. In addition, the party requesting information pursuant to the Public Records Act understands and agrees that the County is not required to create new records which do not exist in the ordinary course of business of the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner in order to respond to a Public Records Act request.

The data is provided to you on an AS IS and WITH ALL FAULTS basis. You assume the entire risk of loss in using the data.

The data provided herewith is subject to revision at any time. The data is complex and may contain some nonconformities, defects and errors. Although attempts have been made to ensure completeness and accuracy of the data, nonconformities, defects, errors and inaccuracies are known to occur.

The County of Monterey does not warrant that the data will meet your needs or expectations, that operations of the data will be error free or uninterrupted or that all nonconformities can, or will, be corrected.

THE FOREGOING LIMITED WARRANTY IS EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE OR ANY OTHER WARRANTIES WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. The County of Monterey shall not be liable to users of the data or to any other person, individual, company, association, firm, corporation or public or private entity regardless of the nature of the organization for any loss or damage, whether consequential or otherwise, including, but not limited to time, money or goodwill arising from the use, operation or modification of the data. In using the data, the user further agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County of Monterey, its officers, agents and employees from any and all claims, liabilities and losses whatsoever (together with any expenses, damages, court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees related thereto) arising out of, or resulting from, use of the data.

MONTEREY COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES
ERIC LAURITZEN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER
1429 ABBOTT STREET - SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93901
PHONE: (831) 759-7325 FAX: (831) 422-5000
Website: www.co.monterey.ca.us/ag



INFORMATION REQUEST

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, I am requesting the following information.
(Please be as specific as possible. For example, information regarding specific locations may be facilitated if you can provide section, township and range, restricted material permit number, site ID number, APN, or other identifying information.)

he would like a list of companies direct + associated with ag in Monterey County. he would like the names & numbers & the contact information.

The County will provide the information in the electronic media format requested if it is a format used.

Check format preference: ☐ paper copy ☐ CD ☒ e-mail

Philip M. Geiger

PRINT NAME

Legal services for seniors

COMPANY NAME

915 Hilby Ave Suite 2

MAILING ADDRESS

Seaside CA 93955

CITY, STATE, ZIP

831-899-0492 831-401-3185

PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

Philip@lssmc.net

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Philip M. Geiger

SIGNATURE

November 3, 2016

DATE

Charges are: \$0.12 per paper copy; cost of media for a CD. Special reports that require data compilation, extraction or programming are charged the cost of programming and computer services as specified in the Monterey County Code (Section 5.28.020) and the current fee schedule.

Approved by:

Page 2 / 18

Total charges: —

Completed requests may be faxed to (831) 758-1290

Soberanes Fire Fund Project Budgets		
Expenses	18 Months	12 Months
Salary Program Manager		
Salary Part-time staff 1	\$ 32,850.00	\$ 22,630.00
Salary Part-time staff 2	\$ -	\$ -
Taxes and Benefits	\$ 7,554.00	\$ 4,306.00
Consultant	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services (Evaluation)	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ 450.00	\$ 300.00
Travel	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,200.00
Publications/Postage	\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00
Rent and Utilities	\$ -	\$ -
Staff training		
Equipment (mobile phone/hotspot internet services)	\$ 900.00	\$ 600.00
Administration	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total:	\$ 46,004.00	\$ 30,536.00

18-month and 12-month budget numbers:

Soberanes Fire Fund Project Budgets		
Expenses	18 Months	12 Months
<i>Salary Program Manager</i>		
<i>Salary Part-time staff 1</i>	<i>\$32,850.00</i>	<i>\$22,630.00</i>
<i>Salary Part-time staff 2</i>	<i>\$-</i>	<i>\$-</i>
<i>Taxes and Benefits</i>	<i>\$7,554.00</i>	<i>\$4,306.00</i>
<i>Consultant</i>	<i>\$-</i>	<i>\$-</i>
<i>Professional Services (Evaluation)</i>	<i>\$-</i>	<i>\$-</i>
<i>Supplies</i>	<i>\$450.00</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>Travel</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>	<i>\$1,200.00</i>
<i>Publications/Postage</i>	<i>\$750.00</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Rent and Utilities</i>	<i>\$-</i>	<i>\$-</i>
<i>Staff training</i>		
<i>Equipment (mobile phone/hotspot internet services)</i>	<i>\$900.00</i>	<i>\$600.00</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
Total:	\$46,004.00	\$30,536.00

4. I did speak with Kate from the Big Sur Land Trust and she did say that they would be open to offering space at Glen Deven Ranch. It's located on Palo Colorado and is really a lovely facility. Just food for thought!

Yes, we are open to different locations for our legal outreach office hours. Right now we have an offer of free space from the Big Sur Health Center.

BIG SUR OVERVIEW

Overview

2010 Population:	1,369
Households per ZIP Code:	623
Average House Value:	\$1,000,000
Avg. Income Per Household:	\$57,670
Persons Per Household:	2.04
White Population:	1,201
Black Population:	8
Hispanic Population:	358
Asian Population:	17
American Indian Population:	31
Hawaiian Population:	3
Other Population:	143
Male Population:	732
Female Population:	637
Median Age:	44.50 years
Male Median Age:	46.10 years
Female Median Age:	42.60 years

Senior Population

2010 Population:	1,369	100%
60 to 64 years	153	11.20%
65 to 69 years	79	5.80%
70 to 74 years	38	2.80%
75 to 79 years	22	1.60%
80 to 84 years	13	0.90%
85 years and over	13	0.90%
Total Senior Population:	318	23.20%

Passport replacement <i>Lost passports need to be reported</i>	US Government	877-487-2778 / 831-372-3021 www.NPIC.state.gov www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html	Make an appointment at the US Post Office -Monterey. Birth certificate required. Private companies can expedite for a fee.
Unemployment claims Important: Identify yourself as a fire victim when calling or coming to office in person	California Employment Development Department	831-796-3636 File Online: www.edd.ca.gov	In Person: 730 LaGuardia Street, Salinas / Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - Noon
Individuals and businesses impacted by disasters in California including Soberanes fire victims	California Employment Development Department	www.edd.ca.gov/About_EDD/Disaster_Related_Services.htm	Services vary from assistance for those who may have lost a job due to the disaster, to employers who are forced to shut down operations.
Referrals to general health and human services resource assistance in Monterey County, free to caller 24/7	United Way Monterey County	2-1-1 ronn.rygg@unitedwaymcca.org	www.unitedwaymcca.org/2-1-1
Infrastructure Restoration/Debris Removal/Disposal			
Hazardous waste disposal requirements and resource information	Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau	831-755-4546 / 831-760-2720 Sandra Tauriac www.mtyhd.org/eh	www.co.monterey.ca.us
Septic systems information	Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau	831-755-4584 Nicole Fowler www.mtyhd.org/eh	www.co.monterey.ca.us
Drinking water system information	Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau	831-755-4763 Roger VanHorn www.mtyhd.org/eh	www.co.monterey.ca.us
Non-toxic/non hazardous debris disposal assistance	Waste Management	831-796-2261 / 800-321-8226 (Fire Line) (General)	www.wm.com/location/california/monterey-county/areas/index.jsp
Re-Construction			
Assistance with all land use permitting (building, variances tree removal, grading, and much more)	Monterey County Resource Management Agency	831-784-5689 Freda Escobar escobar@co.monterey.ca.us	www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-42/resource-management-agency
Other			
Coordinating with county, state and federal agencies on recovery activities such as watershed and environmental damage analysis, SBA assistance programs, and preliminary damage assessments	Office of Emergency Services	831-796-1900 www.co.monterey.ca.us/oes	

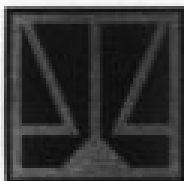
Prepared 8/23/16. Updates to follow as resources are identified. Please send any updates to: United Way Monterey County Ronn.Rygg@unitedwaymcca.org 831-372-8026 x114

RESOURCES for Soberanes Fire Relief

Service for Immediate Needs	Agency/Organization	Contact	More Information
Local Relief, Grant and Technical Support Organizations			
Local Relief, Recovery and Re-building Services Community-based support for Big Sur residents impacted by the Soberanes fire (in coordination with contractors, agencies and nonprofits)	Coast Property Owners Association of Big Sur	cpoa.soberanes.fire@gmail.com Grant Application Forms - www.cpoabigsur.org	Grant and technical support for recovery, infrastructure restoration, debris removal, re-construction, uplope erosion and debris flow mitigation.
Personal Needs			
Medical and mental health wellness	Big Sur Health Center	831-667-2580 info@bigsurhealthcenter.org	www.bigsurhealthcenter.org
Public Assistance Benefits such as CalFresh (Food Assistance), CalWORKs (Cash Assistance) and Medi-Cal for low income individuals with limited assets	Monterey County Dept. of Social Services	831-755-4400 / 866-323-1953 www.c4yourself.com	
Pet sheltering, rescue, emergency pet food and supplies	SPCA for Monterey County	831-373-2631 info@spcamc.org	www.spcamc.org
Primarily a web based service where requests can be made by victims for items and services Connects individual victims with potential donors.	Monterey County Recovers	831-649-3050 www.montereycountyrecovers.org	
Unmet personal/family needs (food, shelter, personal) including disaster mental health services, eyeglasses, medical equipment, prescriptions	American Red Cross of the Central Coast	866-272-2237 www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery/recovery-guides	ARC rep will need to make contact.
Birth certificates in Monterey County All fees for vital records and official records are being waived for fire victims	Monterey County Recorders Office	831-755-5041 / 831-647-7741 (Monterey Peninsula) www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/assessor/recorder	Copies of birth certificates and other personal vital records can only be obtained from where the documents were originally filed. Office can assist with referrals to appropriate agencies outside Monterey County.
Replacing drivers licenses, vehicle titles and registrations	Department of Motor Vehicles	800-777-0133 www.dmv.ca.gov	Leave voice mail and they will call back. Title required for vehicle disposal.

Legal Services for Seniors Fast Facts

1. LSS is the only nonprofit organization providing no-cost legal assistance to all Monterey County seniors by Licensed California Attorneys.
2. Our Mission Statement: "Legal Services for Seniors provides no-cost legal assistance and representation to Monterey County seniors 60 years of age and above with an emphasis on serving those who are economically and/or socially needy."
3. Since our inception in 1985, LSS has helped more than 84,000 Monterey County Seniors with legal issues including financial and physical elder abuse, landlord-tenant conflicts, scams, Medicare and private insurance, Social Security problems, consumer fraud, identity theft, probate guardianships, Wills and Advance Health Care Directives.
4. Last year, LSS assisted 2,700+ seniors with direct, confidential attorney services; protecting more than \$800,000 of their hard earned money.
5. LSS gives community presentations, educating seniors on legal topics including elder abuse, Medicare, Social Security, consumer scams, housing, Wills and Advance Health Care Directives.
6. LSS has two offices (Seaside and Salinas) and ten outreach locations - *Southern Monterey County* (King City, Greenfield, Soledad and Gonzales), *Northern Monterey County* (Castroville and Prunedale) and on the *Peninsula* (Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel and Carmel Valley).
7. All legal services are offered at no cost.



Legal Services for Seniors

Providing Legal Services At No-Charge
To Monterey County Seniors 60 Years Of Age and Above

Legal Services for Seniors Can Help With:

Social Security, SSI

Private Pension Problems

Medicare, Medi-Cal

Private Health Insurance Problems

Elder Abuse & Fraud

Guardianship of Minors

Housing Rights, Neighborhood Disputes & Landlord-
Tenant Issues

Advance Health Care Directives &

Long-Term Care Problems

Wills

Consumer & Debt Collection Problems

Scams

Call us Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Peninsula Office - 831.899.0492
Salinas Office - 831.442.7700

www.lssmc.net

LEGAL SERVICES
FOR SENIORS



1985-2015

★Final Synthesis Essay

It Takes a Village: Identity Through Helping the Community. The theme of our capstone senior class is Self Identity. For my senior project I will demonstrate that I have a deeper understanding of who I am and how I want to be in my career.

I have often wondered what my purpose in life is, I have decided it is to help people. I want to be the healthiest person I can be so I can then give back to my community and work hard. I hope I can find a career that I can help people and make a decent living, that would be really nice to me. Self Identity can be connect to us in so many ways from the way we act, the way we dress, the music we listen to and even the people we associate ourselves with. I personally self identify as a helped. That is what I enjoy to do. What I love to do and hopefully it will be the focus of my career.

Throughout this internship I have helped the elderly and seen what it takes to plan for the end of our lives. We work hard our entire lives, but if we don't properly plan it can end with devastating results. I can't picture the future but I can plan for it.

For me working in an a nonprofit that helps the elderly hits close to home. In the beginning of the semester I lost my Grandfather. I now have two

Grandmothers who are widowed. I believe it is very important to build a strong foundation to life if you want to get a head. One of my Grandmothers planned very well, and the other did not plan so well. I can see a huge difference in their lives and the way they live.

Getting old is scary, but it's even scarier if you don't properly plan for your life. This intern site has taught me about a lot of things I need to do to improve the end of my life. It has taught me how they help the elderly community of Monterey County with services they might have known they needed. To me the foundation to a strong life starts with saving and investing. Then it goes to acquiring assets. After that compound interest should do the work for you so the end of your life you are not scraping by paycheck to paycheck. I have heard one of my bosses say; first save, then pay your bills. It is much easier said than done, especially in this area.

The cost of living is very expensive in the Central Coast of California. I see some of the clients really need the help of Legal Services for Seniors. Sadly some people get taken advantage of and need help getting out of sticky situations. The elderly are lucky to have an establishment to provide them with such great services, all for free. It is really incredible what they are doing down here. Being a Pew-Law student I have really learned the law is strict. It is black and white. There is no grey area. Self identity is all about the grey area!

While at my internship I consistently engaged with my colleagues and practices my professional communication skills. I always listened very well, because you learn a lot more from listening then you do talking. I was respectful of multiple points of view, and consistently engages constructively with others' ideas. I provided feedback that was thoughtful and constructive to my peers. I tried to arrive on time for the hours I set for myself at my internship. I also attended all the class sessions for the Senior Capstone class minus the one during the Convention I was invited to by Legal Services for Seniors. I volunteered to participate actively in the Capstone Festival with setup and breakdown!

I now have a deeper understanding of my sections theme of Self Identity because I now have a focus for my life. I want to become successful and then give back to my community. I understand myself better as an individual but also as a person in the society we live in today and the culture we practice here in the United States of America.

My senior project meet the published criteria and standards for assessment for the internship because I completed all of my hours I needed for both classes I am taking connected to this internship. The Legal Studies Intern Class requires 100 hours and the Capstone class requires 40. As of December 10th I have completed 140 hours.

This internship helped me develop professionally because it allowed me to practice my office etiquette. It also taught me a lot of new things about running a non profit I did not know. I got to talk with lawyers, law students, other CSUMB interns to get a new perspective on things. I got to work with clients while doing intake. I also got to work with a diverse group of people which allowed me to learn how to communicate better.

Collaboratively I practiced with Philip doing various projects. I got him ready for a few fairs; getting the brochures, pamphlets, business cards as well as promotional giveaways. I also got to do case review and hear about the other attorneys/advocates as well as other interns were doing with their projects. I also demonstrated the ability to work independently. I did this by researching ag companies in Monterey county. I got in touch with the HR contacts to start an agricultural outreach program for workers who are about to retire. This is the legwork for an Agricultural Outreach Project that I was assigned.

Over time my perception of this place has only gotten better. I see how much they are helping the community and it makes me so happy to see. As I was given more tasks it became a bit of a balancing act. I acted as the receptionist and continued doing client intake, as well as I researched the ag companies in the area. Since I was not able to get the list I requested from the Agricultural

Commissioner's office in time, I had to make a list myself. I compiled a list of ag companies that was 25 pages long. I was not able to finish the project, however I made a great start so the next intern will have a little less leg work to do than I did. I was told if I ever attend law school I would have a job there. That is an awesome feeling! I really connected with everyone in the office and am so grateful for the experience.

One of the major lessons I learned from completing this internship is mainly that everything takes time. Life takes a ton of patience, it is something we all work on. I am always in a rush to get everything done, but this internship taught me it is okay to slow down and have trust in the process of things.